

ULSTER COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS

DATE: February 23, 2023

TIME: 5:00 PM

PLACE: Ulster County Human Services Complex
100 Development Court, Building #2, Suite 400
(Veterans Agency Entrance)
Kingston, New York

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Nuzzo, Temporary Chair
Lara Kasper-Bukareff
Dean McGee
Deborah Schneer

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dylan Gallagher

OTHERS ATTENDING: Judy Riley, Secretary to the Board of Ethics
Joseph DiFalco, Citizen
Richard Williams, Esq, Assistant County Attorney

The Meeting was called to order at 5:07pm.

The Board voted in a temporary Chair for the meeting. Motion was made to wait until the full board was present to appoint a Chair for the year and to appoint Robert Nuzzo as the temporary Chair for the meeting, Dean McGee 1st, Deborah Schneer 2nd, unanimously approved (Robert Nuzzo abstained).

The Chair asked if anyone had any revisions to the minutes from the January 26, 2023 meeting. No discussion. Motion to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2023 Board of Ethics Meeting, Deborah Schneer 1st, Lara Kasper-Bukareff 2nd, unanimously approved.

5:10pm Mr. DiFalco exited meeting.

Judy discussed the status of the 2021 Financial Disclosure forms and asked that the board members schedule time to review some of the forms. There was one late filer who did not file in his forms for 2020 and 2021. Several attempts were made to have him file the 2020 form in the past to no avail.

5:16pm Motion was made to go into Executive Session to discuss this individual, Deborah Schneer 1st, Lara Kasper-Bukareff 2nd, unanimously approved.

5:18pm Motion was made to exit Executive Session, Robert Nuzzo 1st, Dean McGee 2nd, unanimously approved.

Motion was made to send the individual (late-filer) a letter in the matter of the unreceived Financial Disclosure Forms for 2020 and 2021 stating that the forms must be filed with the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature no later than March 15, 2023 to avoid any future action by the Board which could include civil and criminal penalties, or removal from the committee he/she is serving on. Robert Nuzzo 1st, Dean McGee 2nd, unanimously approved.

Old Business:

5:18pm Motion was made to go into Executive Session to discuss draft letter to Complainant regarding outstanding complaints forwarded from the Town of Gardiner Ethics Board, Robert Nuzzo 1st, Deborah Schneer 2nd, unanimously approved.

5:30pm Motion was made to exit Executive Session, Robert Nuzzo 1st, Dean McGee 2nd, unanimously approved.

Motion was made to send the letter as edited to Complainant and copy the Chairman of the Town of Gardiner Ethics Board, Robert Nuzzo 1st, Lara Kasper-Bukareff 2nd, unanimously approved.

The Board discussed the Request for Advisory Opinion regarding the proposed Local Law No. 7 of 2022, "Good Cause Eviction." The Board drafted a letter in response.

Motion was made to send the drafted letter in response to the Request for Advisory Opinion quoting 44-5 of the Ethics Law of 2022 stating that under the plain language of the law it appears that the proposed Good Cause Eviction Law may cause, at minimum, an indirect pecuniary or material benefit to any legislator who owns or rents a "housing accommodation" as defined in the proposed law and the Board believes that this raises a concern regarding the Ethics Law's impact

on the Legislature's ability to debate this and other important matters. Dean McGee 1st, Lara Kasper-Bukareff 2nd, unanimously approved.

6:08pm Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, Robert Nuzzo 1st, Lara Kasper-Bukareff, 2nd, unanimously approved.